NEWFANGLES 49, July 1971, a monthly news&opinion fanzine from Don & Maggie Thompson, 8786 Hendricks Rd., Mentor, Ohio 44060 for 20¢ a copy. Our last issue will be #54, to be published in December. If this is the last issue of your subscription, $1 will take you to the finish line. The only back issue we have available is #47. Our circulation is 533, of which 335 are permanent subscriptions. Illo above is by Alan Hutchinson.

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KIRBY BLACK&WHITE BOOKS KILLED: All of Jack Kirby's b&w books for DC are dead. As far as we know, only In the Days of the Mob actually went on sale and early sales reports were apparently horrible. Spirit World was to have gone on sale by now but no one seems to have seen it. Other projected books were (honest!) Divorce (which was about people getting divorces) and something called something like Soul Romances (which was to be a love story comic about blacks). So ends yet another attempt to create viable b&w comic magazines; maybe the market does not exist (and don't mention Warren -- sales that make a good profit for Warren are totally unacceptable to the conglomerates which own DC and Marvel). Incidentally, has anyone heard whether that restraint of trade suit has been filed against a certain comicbook publishing company yet?

Marvel (we have from more than one of our best sources) will give the retailer half the price of the 20¢ comic books in order to win support and undercut DC, which is giving only 5¢ on the quarter books. There are rumors DC may cut back to 20¢ for 32 pages but that is so far only a rumor. Sales, of course, will tell the tale.

Bob Oksner is the new Supergirl artist. The book was 2 months behind schedule when Mike Sekowsky left it, which is some accomplishment on a monthly book. / Black Canary, Zatanna (who is making a comeback in a new series by Len Wein--whose work is well worth watching for) and other females will fill in as back features in Adventure(Supergirl)./ DC got behind on a lot of books and the printers refused to handle them until after they printed Marvel and Harvey books, so some monthly DC books will have 2 different issues out nearly simultaneously. / Gary Friedrich will still write for Marvel and Skywald but will not be editing because he has left New York for Missouri for a very good reason -- there was a rape&murder in the apartment above his and his wife is understandably afraid of the city. / Skywald now is publishing only Butch Cassidy, Sundance Kid and Heap, plus the b&w books; they even killed Tender Love Stories. / On the second part of the drug story in Green Lantern/Green Arrow, the Code took out one hypodermic needle whenever a panel showed two -- the mind boggles at logic like that. / Dorothy Woolfolk did 2 issues of Wonder Woman (reprint) before Denny O'Neil took over. / Note the Postal Service plans to raise first class postage to 11¢ next year with other rates going up the same percentage. Worth it--took only 7 days for a Special Delivery package to reach us from Dallas. Service hasn't been that good since the Pony Express days...

DEATHS

Ub Iwerks, director of technical research for Disney Productions, died at the age of 71 on July 7 at St. Joseph Hospital in Burbank. Mr. Iwerks grew to know Disney in Kansas City in 1919, completely animated the first Mickey Mouse short, Plane Crazy, and was in on the beginning of Silly Symphonies. He won Oscars in 1959 and 1965--for an improved optical printer for special effects and for advancements in the tra elling-matte system. He designed many Disneyland effects and was working on Walt Disney World in Florida at the time of his death. He leaves a wife and two sons. (His age is also reported as 70.)

Cliff "Ukulele Ike" Edwards died this month at the age of 76. He introduced "Ja Da," one of the biggest hits of the '20's, and from then to the early '30's, he had one hit after another; "June Night" sold 3.2 million records. In the '30's and early '40's, he made film and guest appearances on radio shows--and developed a personal friendship with Disney, for whom he did the voice of Jiminy Cricket in Pinocchio (1940). (We suspect his face contributed to character design for Jiminy, too.) From that point began his real decline, which meant little or no work and the restrictions of a pensioner. His health was poor for many years. Ukulele Ike Happens Again was released by Vista in the late '60's, but the first pressing didn't even sell out; he died alone and penniless. Twice married and divorced, he left no next of kin; he died of a heart attack.

Fan artist Ted White (who had work in Yancy Street Gazette and Marvel Tribune, not the stf editor Ted White, who is also an artist) was killed recently, according to a third-hand report we just received. According to the source, Ted was hit by a train; I'm sorry that we know no more than that.

CON REPORTS

December 1970 saw a minicon at Jack Kirby's house for 13 San Diego fans; Shel Dorf expressed enormous pleasure at the entire experience. Kirby took great care to answer each question his guests had, discussed his approach to his DC stories, and gave everyone a tour of the house ("a beautiful home, comfortable but completely unpretentious--like the Kirbys themselves"). "As we stood talking, Jack pulled his topper of the afternoon. He is going to use our San Diego group as characters in a future story. The story will take place in San Diego and there will be a group called 'The San Diego Five String Gang' (or something like that). He requested that we send him photos of ourselves along with street scenes, etc. Wow!" # We gather that the Easter Weekend Disneyland Con was fun. Infantino announced that Kirby's two new B&W books would have none of the distribution problems that Savage Tales had (!) and will hit every newsstand where Mad is sold. Steranko was reported to be considering doing a Batman story shortly. (Parenthetical remark by one reporter--that Screw #108 was a "dirty comics issue," devoting 9 pages to the topic; text by Latimer.) Carmine did a story for Supergraphics. Disney-Con is one of the places where Kirby knocked the Spider-Man drug story, complaining Lee didn't show it like it really is, just a little part of it. Kirby also said he liked the underground artists, reportedly, but the comics had no point and relied on shock value to sell. Steranko did imitations (Cagney as Ant-Man, Don Adams as Nick Fury). Then he asked for requests; the first was Millie the Model. # Phil Seuling's NYComiCon was the biggest yet, we hear--covering two floors of the hotel. Some sources anxiously say that Phil is thinking about not doing the con next year; we hope 'tain't so. A 1969 Comic Crusader quoted Jim Warren as saying "I imagine there will always be a comicon. If there isn't, we will run one ourselves." Hmmmm. Goethe Awards certificates weren't delivered to us in time to get to NYC for the ceremonies (got here July 6); Tony Isabella and Jim Steranko gave winners a smile and handshake, and the certificates will be mailed.

STRIPS

Just discovered that Dotty Dripple's daughter Taffy is married and Winnie Winkle's daughter is dancing in a nightclub chorus line. #"You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" reopened on Broadway in June. # The NEA syndicated one-liner panel, Today's Funny is drawn by Bela (Bill) Zaboly, for many years the artist on Thimble Theatre (Popeye). # The daily Freckles and His Friends has been discontinued; the Sunday strip survives. It was created in 1915. Abbie & Slats died a few months ago.

POGO We've been asked to check on what Pogo books are in print. They are: Pogo (1951, $1.25), I Go Pogo (1952, $1.25), Uncle Pogo So-So Stories (1953, $1), Pogo Papers (1953, $1), The Pogo Stepmother Goose (1954, $1.25), The Incompleat Pogo (1954, $1), Pogomobile (cut-outs for a mobile) (1958, $1.95), Pogo Peek-A-Book (1955, $1), Pot Luck Pogo (1955, $1), The Pogo Sunday Book (1956, $1), The Pogo Party (1956, $1), Songs of the Pogo (1968, $1.95), Pogo Sunday Punch (1957, $1), Pogo Sunday Parade (1958, $1), Ten Ever-Lovin' Blue-Eyed Years with Pogo (1959, $4.95), Pogo Extra (1960, $1.25), Pogo à la Sundae (1961, $1.50), Gone Pogo (1961, $1.25), Pogo Puce Stamp Catalog (1963, $1), The Return of Pogo (1965, $1.50), The Pogo Poop Book (1966, $1.50), Equal Time for Pogo (1968, $1.50), Pogo: Prisoner of Love (1969, $1.95). Totally out of print are Positively Pogo, The G.O. Fizzickle Pogo, The Pogo Sunday Brunch, Beau Pogo, The Jack Acid Society Black Book, Instant Pogo, and Deck Us All with Boston Charlie; some editions of the others are out of print, but the paperbacks remain, etc... If you have no good bookstore near you, you might try ordering from Simon and Schuster, Rockefeller Center, 630 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10020.

FAN NEWS Rick and Sue Brown were driving home one wintry night and spotted three youths in the process of acting suspicious; the Browns circled the block and found them more suspicious. Rick & Sue called the police, watched the kids warily, and saw them break into a store (which had been burgled twice the preceeding week). Police arrived, Rick ran out, police ran into burgled store, and Rick caught one kid coming out while police caught the other two still burgling. Letter of thanks to Rick from Chief of Police who said Rick could be a hero if he wanted to, since the kids confessed to seventeen other robberies. In mid-March, Rick testified before the Grand Jury and told what he'd seen and done, and they liked it a lot and gave him $3 and said, "Thanks a lot; here's $3." (This is a synopsis of a letter from Rick. Baddies, watch out!) ⅞ December 1, 1970, Dieter Kulicke and wife had their third daughter, Vicky. ⅞ June 15, 1971, Cliff Biggers and Susan Hendrix (both members of Myriad and Galaxy) were married; they met through a Batman letter column. (Don and Maggie met via the N3F; see what fandoms can do?) Both Biggers now live at 621½ Olive Street, Cedartown, Georgia 30125. ⅞ Sleuth GWho in April tracked down (for benefit of Newfangles' readers who might have a sub to Comic World and be wondering whatever happened to it) the following address: Bob Jennings, 45 Newton Street, Nashua, New Hampshire 03060. CW subbers can now reach him there. ⅞ Martin and Eleanor Greim announced the birth of Jolene Laura Greim (weight 4 lbs, 13 oz) April 22, 1971. ⅞ Fan Bill Warren says, "Please print in Newfangles that I am no relation to Jim Warren." ⅞ bpNichol, Toronto poet and comics fan, won this year's $2500 Governor General's Award for poetry, the top prize of its sort in the country. Not bad for a 26-year-old poet; what was that about comics' rotting of minds?

INFORMATION RETRIEVAL In re your question concerning Whiz #1, I have seen only the following: There was a comic called Special Edition Comics #1, dated only 1940. At Fawcett, this comic was bound into the Captain Marvel Adventures set, preceding Capt. Marvel Adventures #1. And then there was a Thrill Comics #1, which provided a sort of forecast of the Whiz series (January 1940). They said the hero would be called Captain Thunder. Then came Whiz #2, and the hero's name was Captain Marvel. I have seen no comic actually called Whiz #1." --That's Michael Fleisher, who has been unable to verify persistent rumors of an actual Whiz #1. By the way, he only lacks about 50 issues to complete his researches (see NF#48); can you help?

In April, Phil Seuling circulated an offer to comics fans and collectors from National Periodicals; National wants "to extend our knowledge of how our comic books are distributed by asking you to tell us... We would like you to check up on how our books are displayed, sold, and stocked... We will give everyone who becomes a representative a free subscription to a group of four National Periodical comic books. We will enter your name on our mailing list (etc.)... We will provide each participating member with identification to assure the dealers that you are actually a DC representative... National wants 500 representatives in this massive campaign, chosen exclusively from your responses to this list." This is, we think, the first time the publishers have tried to use the vast resource of fandom, and we applaud National. However, we hear the identification is marked "DC (Superman) Survey Club" and approach seems child-oriented; maybe it'll grow?

The new officers of the Academy of Comic Book Artists are Dick Giordano (President), Neal Adams (VP), Sal Amendola (Secretary), Mimi Gold (Treasurer). / The Warren Awards went to T. Casey Brennan (for his terrific story "On The Wings of a Bird" now on the stands in the Creepy Annual), Wally Wood (art), Archie Goodwin (writing), Frank Frazetta (cover art) and Jose Gonzales (art). Incidentally, you owe it to yourself to look over Warren's books -- they have had several outstanding stories lately.

RE-REVIEWS A while back, I said some unkind things about the writing of Gerry Conway for Marvel (for DC he did some good stories). I wish I could take them back but I cannot -- he has turned Daredevil, Iron Man and Sub-Mariner into whining, sniveling, spineless indecisive ciphers and he is starting to do the same with Thor. This one-string-banjo-routine of making all heroes into crybabies is apparently Conway's idea of characterization. And the godawful slop in the captions! Conway also plays games like putting his buddies into stories (George Alec Effinger and--offstage--Gardner Dozois ((2 of the worst sf writers since Charles Eric Maine)) in Daredevil) -- first learn your trade, then play games. Or, since you used to write well, re-learn your trade, Gerry. // An artist with good taste disagreed with me on HELL-RIDER, saying it gives him a good feeling. I re-read H-R and I hereby admit I was wrong -- my artist friend does not have good taste. H-R is r*o*t*t*e*n.

--Don Thompson

Wonder Woman has just tied the late Aquaman for longevity as a comics character. Both were published regularly for 29½ years. Only Superman (33 years) and Batman (32) surpass them. The late Blackhawk (27) and the still-thriving Superboy (26½) bring up the rear among the frontrunners. Green Arrow would have beaten out Superboy but for a hiatus of several months before he was reborn in his present masculine version. / Dunno if it is the Code, or Kirby or inker Coletta, but Big Barda (Mr Miracle) is about as feminine in those closing panels as Dave Meggyessy in a bikini. And Mr Miracle's last couple of issues are unsurpassed for idiocy in recent superhero comics (Why accept whatsisname's challenge to try to escape a trap? It is basic military strategy not to meet the enemy on his terms. Why in hell does this 50-story building have this immense stairwell in the middle of it? There could be at least 50 offices in that space; I'm sure the backer had the architect horsewhipped. But, if there is such a thing as this stupid stairwell, why didn't Scott Free simply fly down the dumb thing and out the front door? For that matter, there's no reason he couldn't have flown out trunk and all. It would have been better than those pages and pages of anticlimax while he snickeringly tells how he did it all with his portable deus ex machina.) I say it's spinach and I say the hell with it.

Don Glut has had 2 Frankenstein novels published in Spain; there are to be 9 more but it seems they've run into censorship trouble (not that the books are dirty; Spain is a dictatorship which controls everything that is published; Agnew loved it there). Don sold True Vampires of History as a paperback and will co-author The Great Television Heroes with Jim Harmon. He also is working for Gold Key and writing columns for teen mags like Tiger Beat and Fave under names like Johnny Jason and with in-jokes like giving David Cassidy a romance with Betty Dean. He also is to write a chapter of Don Thompson & Dick Lupoff's The Comic-Book Book. Busy. // Gold Key will be issuing some new books around January. We have yet to confirm that they have lost the rights to one of their biggest sellers...

If you are a Frazetta fan you really should belong to the SF Book Club. Besides the two Burroughs books with jackets and interiors by Frazetta, they have published Red Moon and Black Mountain with a Frazetta jacket. He also does some ads for new books for them. // Speaking of science fiction, the field recently lost its two top editors. John W. Campbell editor of Analog (formerly Astounding) and the man most responsible for making science fiction what it is today died July 11, one week after August Derleth, editor-publisher of Arkham House and the man who saved HPLovecraft from obscurity. Both died of heart ailments.

Edwin L Murray says newsstands will order Blackmark from Bantam Books if you ask them to. / Daredevil #81 has an excellent letter--with constructive, well-thought-out criticism--by Jim Vicko. The answer given him makes me ashamed to be a Marvel fan -- I have not seen such a cop-out since the days of the late unlamented ACG. We blush for Marvel.

AL CAPP NEWS

{Before we go on, may we make a point? We do not make up the stories we run on Mr. Capp; indeed, we are not over-enthused at the idea of running so many of them, and have even agreed between us not to run so much on the man. We have cut out several stories containing his opinions on politics, ethnic groups, society, and the like. When a story is important, however, we have run it. And if it involved Capp's opinions, we have felt free to express our opinions. That's the way we do things--and we've as much right to express ourselves as anyone. If you don't like it, feel free to cancel your sub. CK?} Parade (a Sunday supplement) for June 6 ran an excellent item in their "Intelligence Report" on the problems newspapers had in dealing with news of morals charges filed against Al Capp. Jack Anderson's Washington Merry-Go-Round (syndicated to 650 papers) cited Capp's alleged behavior with a variety of college coeds; the story was researched by Britt Hume (on Anderson's staff), who got affidavits from two of the coeds involved. Many papers ran the column because they believed Capp was a public figure in the news, a lecturer on morality, and a cartoonist of prominence--and they believed other papers would carry it. Other editors declined because details were objectionable for a family audience, no formal charges had been launched against Capp, he had not been arrested on a criminal complaint, and he denied the statements in the column. The St. Petersburg, Florida, Times ran it one day later, with an explanation: the Times delayed because the charges were three years old and none of the coeds had pressed charges against Capp in court; it asked readers to vote on how they felt about running the column. (After 10 days, the vote was 598 for printing, 349 against.) Many papers not printing it have a standing rule prohibiting disclosure of a person's sex life unless it's a matter of news via arrest or complaint. May 7 (about 2 weeks after the column) a 20-year-old Eau Claire State University (Wisconsin) coed filed a complaint. Capp, 61, denied all charges, saying he was being victimized by the "revolutionary left who would try to stop me by any means from speaking out on campuses." {All this is from Parade, which did a nice summary.} Anderson's column was on incidents he said happened February 11, 1968, and he said that Capp was asked to leave Tuscaloosa (the incidents supposedly occurring at the University of Alabama). ¶ May 2, Al was hospitalized in Harrison, Arkansas, after collapsing from exhaustion; he had stopped in Harrison to visit his son Kim. ¶ Several days later, he was charged with three morals offenses involving the married Eau Claire coed; he was accused of sodomy, attempted adultery, and indecent exposure. ¶ May 24 he was in his old form at a Chicago Police Department's St. Jude League breakfast, saying, "A funny thing happened to me on my way through Eau Claire..." ¶ He was granted a one month continuance in Boston Municipal Court on extradition proceedings. ¶ And the latest word (July 21) is that his lawyer said in Boston that Capp will surrender voluntarily in Wisconsin to answer the charges; no date has been fixed for the surrender.

Let us lead off changes of address by noting that Edward R. Hamilton, Bookseller, Sherman, Connecticut 06784 is now at that address--and that his postage and handling charge is now 40¢ per book. If you don't know him, be advised that you should write to him to ask for his discount list; he sells all in print hardcovers, most of them at 33⅓% off (plus that 40¢)--but you must use his order forms. For example, the $1.95 Pogo books mentioned elsewhere are available from ERH at $1.30 plus 40¢--or $1.70. And his service is swift. Edward R. Hamilton, Sherman, Connecticut 06784, that is...

CoA: G. Richard Buchanan, 23 Jones Street, Apt. #17, New York, New York 10012
William J. Denholm III, 1530 4th Street, Apt. #19, Sacramento, California 95814
Hal Foster, 336 Sundbird Lane, Spring Hill, Florida 33512
Richard Grogan, 15 Coolidge Court, Haverstraw, New York 10927
Thomas Hegeman, RD, Chatham, New York 12037
Stephen T. Kerr, 707 Rosedale Road, Princeton, New Jersey 08540 (back from Alaska!)
Al Kuhfeld, 1805 Park Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404
Dennis Lien, 4101 North Cactus Boulevard, Tucson, Arizona 85716
Michael Moore, 11565 Missouri, Los Angeles, California 90025
Vance Parrish, 9075 SW 69th Street, Portland, Oregon 97223
Robert B. Sanders, 81 Pearl Street, Oakland, California 94611
John D. Stefl, 2314 Van Reed Road, Whitfield, Reading, Pennsylvania 19609
Terry Turner, Route #4, Box 278, Knox, Indiana 46534
Michael Ward, 447 Lerida Avenue, Los Altos, California 94022
G. H. Wells, 24 River Avenue, Riverhead, New York 11901
Ken Wong, P. O. Box 636, Port Hardy, B. C., CANADA

OTHER MEDIA "Orange Bird," a new Disney creation (for exclusive use of the Florida Dept. of Citrus), will be featured in many promotions centering around the Dept.'s Sunshine Pavillion at Disney's World. The bird doesn't talk, whistle, or sing; it expresses its thoughts in puffs of orange smoke above its head. %% The San Francisco Chronicle for April 24 has a page on the fame of fictional and comicbook heroes as opposed to the obscurity of real ones and the fame of real-life criminals; pictured are Green Hornet and Superman. %% On the other hand, the Washington Star Service had a story in mid-April about The Masked Marvel. He wears a red and green ski mask with dark glasses over the eye slits, and he goes into predominantly black neighborhoods at night, guiding police to various narcotics pushers in Washington, DC. Police Lt. A. N. Taylor says the Marvel is with the Police Dept. and said he expected some consternation about ol' MM, especially "the ones that are in violation... It's like Big Brother--they don't know who's watching them." Weird; we don't recall having heard of Big Brother in such favorable terms before... %% Springs Mills, Inc., 104 West 40th Street, New York, New York 10018 makes Springmaid sheets, pillowcases, no-iron bedspreads, and cotton terry towels with a Dudley Do-Right design and with an Underdog pattern. Completists, note. %% Mort Drucker did a lovely ad ("The Come As You Are Party Tyme") for cocktail mixes in Better Homes and Gardens, June 1971. %% The trial of the Chicago 8 (reduced to 7) is recounted in word and picture in Pictures at a Prosecution by Jules Feiffer (Grove; clothbound, $8.50; paper, $3.95). %% Shel Silverstein has done the songs for Who Is Harry Kellerman and Why Is He Saying All Those Things About Me? Or whatever it's called. %% Al Jaffee is doing ads for Passport liquor, one of which ran on the back of Newsweek, April 26. %% Jack Davis is doing countless ads, including those for Woody Allen's new movie Bananas.

REMEMBER "...There are men whom one hates until a certain moment when one sees, through a chink in their armour, the writhing of something nailed down and in torment."
--Gerald Kersh

MORE OTHER MEDIA In the May 1971 issue of Supermarketing Magazine is a full-page ad announcing a spring bread promotion featuring the Peanuts gang. "Naturally, your customers will give it a spectacular reception. Because nothing generates consumer response and brand loyalty like the lovable 'Peanuts' gang. Our gang." %% We may have forgotten to mention it, but the Los Angeles Times for January 11, 1971, editorialized happily on the fact that the Tarzana Branch of the LA Public Library has finally agreed to accept a gift series from Edgar Rice Burroughs' son. "Rather huffily, it seems to us, the municipal library system for years refused to stock the Tarzan books, insisting they were devoid of literary value. We hope Burroughs has been vindicated. Now that Tarzan is back, what about John Carter, Warlord of Mars? He grew up in Tarzana, too." %% Ron Harris asks whether Playboy's own Dink Siegel is illustrating "those stomach-churning Doral Cigarette ads done in comic-strip form." %% Saalfield has a new bunch of coloring books that feature over-sized reprints of daily strips; included are Winthrop and Rivets.

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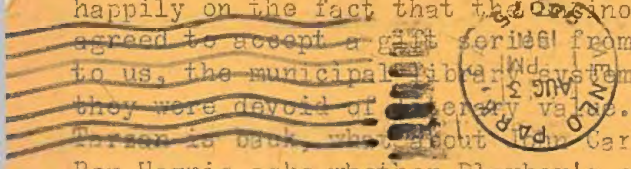

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